

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12, 13 and 15 have been amended. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Claims 1 through 13 and 15 through 24 remain in the patent application. Claims 1 and 12 are in independent form.

Claims 1 through 6 and 11 through 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent 5,632,551 (the '551 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The '551 reference an LED vehicle lamp assembly 100 having a plurality of LEDs 12 mounted to a circuit board 20. A thermally conductive material 14 surrounds a portion of the LEDs 12. A housing 10 and "window or lens 16 which define a three dimensional space 18 therebetween," (column 2, lines 46 – 47).

Claims 1, as amended, claims a method for the production of a lighting element. The method claims the step of positioning the luminescent diode in space relationship to the light-guiding body wherein the space defines a gap. A transparent plastic is injected around the light-emitting diodes whereby the wall thickness created by the transparent plastic is less than or equal to three times the size of the gap.

While the '551 reference a vehicle LED vehicle lamp assembly with a plurality of diodes spaced from a lens or window, it does not disclose a method for creating same by injecting a transparent plastic that surrounds a portion of the LEDs and a portion of the lens. In addition, it does not disclose a method that prevents the thickness of the transparent plastic from exceeding three times the gap between the LEDs and the lens or window. And even if the thermally conductive medium 14 were considered the element that is injected, it is not transparent. This thermally conductive medium 14 has thermally conductive particles injected therein such as aluminum and the like.

In contradistinction, claim 1, as amended to clarify the inventive method, clearly claims a method that injects a transparent plastic around both the LEDs and the light-guiding bodies. In addition, there is not provision to define the thicknesses between the walls around the light-guiding bodies and that which is within the gap between the LEDs and the light-guiding

bodies. Therefore, claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom, overcome this rejection.

Claim 12 stand rejected under the '551 reference. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 12 claims a lighting element having a light source and a light-guiding body spaced a predetermined distance therefrom. A layer of plastic is disposed between the light source and the light-guiding body to position the light-guiding body with respect to the lighting element. The wall created by the transparent plastic is less than or equal to three times the predetermined distance between the lighting element and the light-guiding body.

While the '551 reference discloses LEDs covered by a lens or window, there is an air gap disposed therebetween. There is no transparent plastic medium between the LEDs and the lens. The thermally conductive medium 14 does not extend all the way up to the lens. The '551 reference clearly lacks the elements claimed in claim 12. Therefore, claim 12, and all claims depending therefrom, overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because nowhere in the '551 reference is there a teaching for filling the air gap between the LEDs and the lens for a gap filling medium that is covering the lens with a wall a thickness less than or equal to three times the gap therebetween. In fact, it cannot be possible because there can be no walls around the lens due to the configuration of the lens disclosed in both of the embodiments shown in the '51 reference. There is only a gap therebetween.

None of the references discovered by neither the Applicant nor the Examiner show the claimed inventions. Therefore, all remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

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It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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